

We Claim:

1. A method of generating a graphical portion of a graphical user interface (GUI), the graphical portion concerning aspects of a storage domain, the method comprising:
 - illustrating a tree hierarchy;
 - including, on the tree hierarchy, a node at a first level corresponding to a set of at least two file systems that are members of the storage domain; and
 - including, on the tree hierarchy, nodes at a second level reporting to the first-level node, each second-level node corresponding to a member of the set of files systems to which the first node corresponds.
2. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
 - including, on the tree hierarchy, nodes at a third level, each third-level node regarding allotment of storage space to one or more entities;
 - each second-level node being a parent to at least one of the third-level nodes.
3. The method of claim 2, wherein each third-level node corresponds to a set of storage-consumers.
4. The method of claim 3, further comprising:
 - including, on the tree hierarchy, nodes at a fourth level;
wherein
 - each third-level node is a parent to at least one fourth-level node;
 - each third-level node corresponds to one of a set of instances of storage-consumers and a set of groups of storage-consumers, each group corresponding to instances of storage-consumers, respectively; and
 - each fourth-level node corresponds to a member of the set to which the parent third-level node corresponds.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein two or more fourth-level nodes correspond to the same entity yet and report indirectly to two or more second-level nodes representing respective file systems.
6. The method of claim 1, wherein the storage domain includes a network-attached storage (NAS) device on which the at-least-two file systems are mounted.
7. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
illustrating the tree-hierarchy as part of a tree-table.
8. A method of generating a graphical portion of a graphical user interface (GUI), the method comprising:
illustrating a tree-table having a tree hierarchy portion and a table portion;
including, on the tree-hierarchy portion, nodes corresponding to storage consumers that are members of a storage domain; and
including, on the table-portion, rows and one or more columns,
the one-or-more columns each representing an attribute,
respectively, regarding an allotment of storage space to the respective storage consumers, and
each row being aligned with one of the nodes, respectively, and
including cells corresponding to the one or more columns.
9. The method of claim 8, wherein the attribute is one of:
a soft limit on storage space;
a hard limit on storage space; and
a currently-consumed amount of storage space.
10. The method of claim 9, wherein:
the attribute is a first attribute;
the first attribute is the soft limit; and
the method further comprises

including, on the table-portion, another column representing a second attribute, the second attribute being a size of a grace period in which the soft limit can be exceeded.

11. The method of claim 8, further comprising:

illustrating, in response to a user request, a sortable table corresponding to the table-portion.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein the sortable table includes all of the rows and the one-or-more columns of the table-portion.

13. The method of claim 11, further comprising:

toggling between the sortable table and the tree-table.

14. The method of claim 8, wherein the storage domain includes a network-attached storage (NAS) device on which the respective allotment of storage space takes place.

15. A method of generating a graphical portion of a graphical user interface (GUI), the method comprising:

illustrating a tree-table having a tree hierarchy portion and a table portion;

including, on the tree-hierarchy portion, a node at a first level corresponding to one file system in a storage domain;

including, at a second level on the tree-hierarchy portion, at least one of a node belonging to a first node-category corresponding to a set of instances of storage-consumers, and

a node belonging to a second node-category corresponding to a set of groups of storage-consumers,

each second-level node reporting to the first-level node; and

including, on the table-portion, rows and one or more columns,

the one-or-more columns each representing an attribute, respectively, regarding an allotment of storage space to the respective storage consumers, and

the rows being aligned with the first-category and second-category nodes, respectively, and including cells corresponding to the one or more columns.

16. The method of claim 15, further comprising:

including, on the tree-hierarchy portion, nodes at a third level that report to the first-category and second-category nodes, respectively,

each third-level node corresponding to a member of the set to which the parent first-category or second-category node corresponds, respectively; and

including, on the table-portion, rows that

align with the third-level nodes, respectively, and

include cells corresponding to the one or more columns.

17. The method of claim 16, further comprising:

including, on the tree-hierarchy portion, at least two first-level nodes corresponding to at least two files system in the storage domain; and

including, on the tree-hierarchy portion, a node at a zeroith level representing all instances of file systems in the storage domain,

the zeroith-level node being the parent to each of the first-level nodes.

18. The method of claim 17, wherein a particular third-level node can report indirectly to two or more of the at-least-two second-level nodes.

19. A machine-readable medium including instructions execution of which by a host produces a graphical portion of a graphical user interface (GUI), the graphical portion concerning aspects of a storage domain, the machine-readable instructions comprising:

a code segment for illustrating a tree hierarchy;

a code segment for including, on the tree hierarchy, a node at a first level corresponding to a set of at least two file systems that are members of the storage domain; and

a code segment for including, on the tree hierarchy, nodes at a second level reporting to the first-level node, each second-level node corresponding to a member of the set of files systems to which the first node corresponds.

20. The machine-readable instructions of claim 19, further comprising:

a code segment for including, on the tree hierarchy, nodes at a third level, each third-level node corresponding to a set of storage-consumers;
each second-level node being a parent to at least one of the third-level nodes.

21. The machine-readable instructions of claim 19, wherein the storage domain includes a network-attached storage (NAS) device on which the at-least-two file systems are mounted.

22. The machine-readable instructions of claim 19, further comprising:

a code segment for illustrating the tree-hierarchy as part of a tree-table.

23. A machine-readable medium including instructions execution of which by a host produces a graphical portion of a graphical user interface (GUI), the machine-readable instructions comprising:

a code segment for illustrating a tree-table having a tree hierarchy portion and a table portion;

a code segment for including, on the tree-hierarchy portion, nodes corresponding to storage consumers that are members of a storage domain; and

a code segment for including, on the table-portion, rows and one or more columns,

the one-or-more columns each representing an attribute, respectively, regarding an allotment of storage space to the respective storage consumers, and

each row being aligned with one of the nodes, respectively, and including cells corresponding to the one or more columns.

24. The machine-readable instructions of claim 23, wherein the attribute is one of:
 - a soft limit on storage space;
 - a hard limit on storage space; and
 - a currently-consumed amount of storage space.
25. The machine-readable instructions of claim 24, wherein:
 - the attribute is a first attribute;
 - the first attribute is the soft limit; and
 - the machine-readable instructions further comprises
 - a code segment for including, on the table-portion, another column representing a second attribute, the second attribute being a size of a grace period in which the soft limit can exceeded.
26. The machine-readable instructions of claim 23, further comprising:
 - a code segment for illustrating, in response to a user request, a sortable table corresponding to the table-portion.
27. The machine-readable instructions of claim 26, further comprising:
 - a code segment for toggling between the sortable table and the tree-table.
28. The machine-readable instructions of claim 23, wherein the storage domain includes a network-attached storage (NAS) device on which the respective allotment of storage space takes place.
29. An apparatus for managing aspects of a storage domain, the apparatus comprising:
 - a host operatively connected to components of the storage domain; and
 - manager means for running on the host and for managing aspects of the storage domain in part by producing a graphical user interface (GUI); and

generation means for generating a graphical portion of the GUI, the generation means being operable to

portray, in the graphical portion, a tree hierarchy,

portray, on the tree hierarchy, a node at a first level corresponding to a set of at least two file systems that are members of the storage domain, and

portray, on the tree hierarchy, nodes at a second level reporting to the first-level node, each second-level node corresponding to a member of the set of files systems to which the first node corresponds.

30. The apparatus of claim 29, wherein the generation means is further operable to portray, on the tree hierarchy, nodes at a third level, each third-level node corresponding to a set of storage-consumers; each second-level node being a parent to at least one of the third-level nodes.

31. The apparatus of claim 29, wherein the generation means is further operable to dispose the tree-hierarchy as part of a tree-table.

32. An apparatus for managing aspects of a storage domain, the apparatus comprising:

a host operatively connected to components of the storage domain; and
manager means for running on the host and for managing aspects of the storage domain in part by producing a graphical user interface (GUI); and
generation means for generating a graphical portion of the GUI, the generation means being operable to

portray, in the graphical portion, a tree-table having a tree hierarchy portion and a table portion,

portray, on the tree-hierarchy portion, nodes corresponding to storage consumers that are members of a storage domain, and

portray, on the table-portion, rows and one or more columns,

the one-or-more columns each representing an attribute, respectively, regarding an allotment of storage space to the respective storage consumers, and

each row being aligned with one of the nodes, respectively, and including cells corresponding to the one or more columns.

33. The apparatus of claim 32, wherein the attribute is one of:
 - a soft limit on storage space;
 - a hard limit on storage space; and
 - a currently-consumed amount of storage space.
34. The apparatus of claim 33, wherein:
 - the attribute is a first attribute;
 - the first attribute is the soft limit; and
 - the generation means is further operable to portray, on the table-portion, another column representing a second attribute, the second attribute being a size of a grace period in which the soft limit can exceeded.
35. The apparatus of claim 32, wherein the generation means is further operable to portray in the graphical portion, in response to a user request, a sortable table corresponding to the table-portion.
36. The apparatus of claim 35, wherein the generation means is further operable to toggle between the sortable table and the tree-table.

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